

**Damrosch  
Day  
Treatment  
School  
Library  
Initiative  
Annual Report**

**Highlights of 2008 / 2009**

- An experienced NY state certified school librarian was hired
- The construction of the library was completed
- A Library Advisory Team was formed
- 6 grants were written for the library
- 3 grants were won for the library
- A Library Blog was created
- A Library Wiki was created
- All library lessons were made available online
- The library schedule was made available online
- Classes were taught in the library
- Books were borrowed from the library
- Students were taught to be independent users of the library by learning how to search the OPAC (**O**nline **P**ublic **A**ccess **C**atalog) by title, author, subject or keyword
- A tree was purchased for the hole in the donut couch
- Several large stuffed animals from FAO Schwartz were purchased as part of an *African Animals of the Savannah* theme to go along with the beautiful murals
- Wikification of several special collections' research guides
- Librarian involved alternate assessment students by doing push-ins with every class on the first floor
- Librarian attended both basic and advanced training on the library software system, *Destiny*, that runs the circulation and cataloging aspects of the library
- Librarian attended other professional development programs including several for the Campaign for Middle School Success, Book Expo America and both the Fall and Spring City-wide Librarians' Conferences sponsored by Tweed
- Several special collections were created including a *graphic novel* collection, a *documentary photography* collection, a *self-help* collection for the middle school students, and a *character education* collection for all grades
- Two bulletin boards were installed outside the library
- The fiction collection was labeled with genre stickers in order to make reader's advisory easier
- Three RIF distributions were held in the library and 176 books were distributed

## Class Visits and Usage Patterns

162 classes visited our library this school year since it first opened for business on February 23, 2009, and 92 push-ins were done with the alternate assessment classes on the first floor. There were a total of 81 OPEN ACCESS periods during which any teacher or staff member could bring students, themselves or their classes to the library to borrow and return books.

Figure 1. shows that the library was also heavily used by teachers to support curriculum with 113 books borrowed by the top ten teacher borrowers to supplement their teaching in the classroom. And Figure 2. shows the top 8 student borrowers, three of the top six being from Ms. Hoel's class. Note that one of the top 8 student borrowers was an alternate assessment student who also had a 100% return rate of borrowed books.

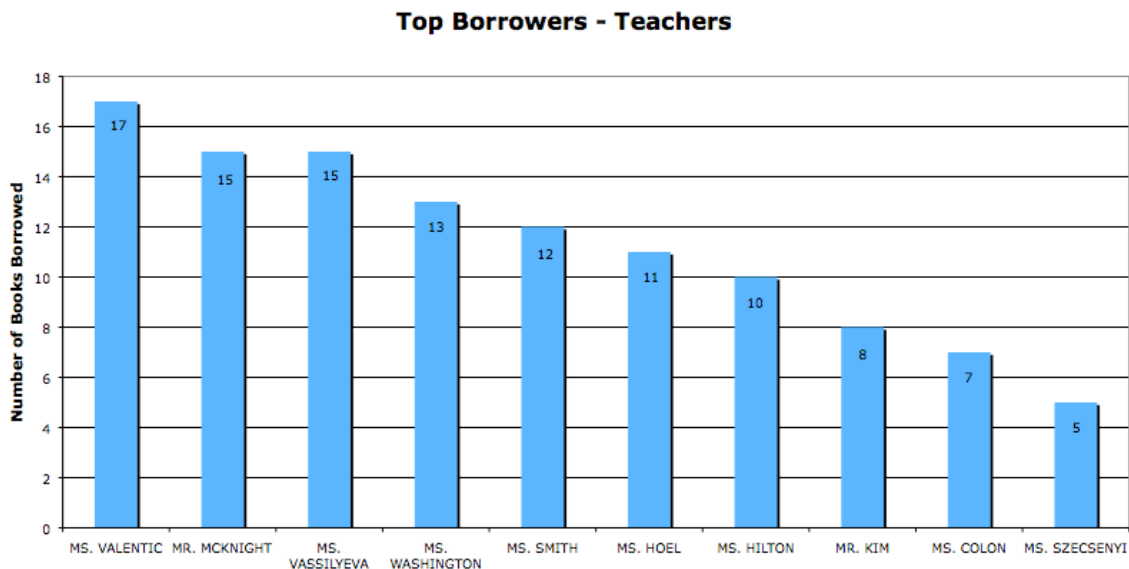


Figure 1. *Teacher Top Ten Users of the Library*

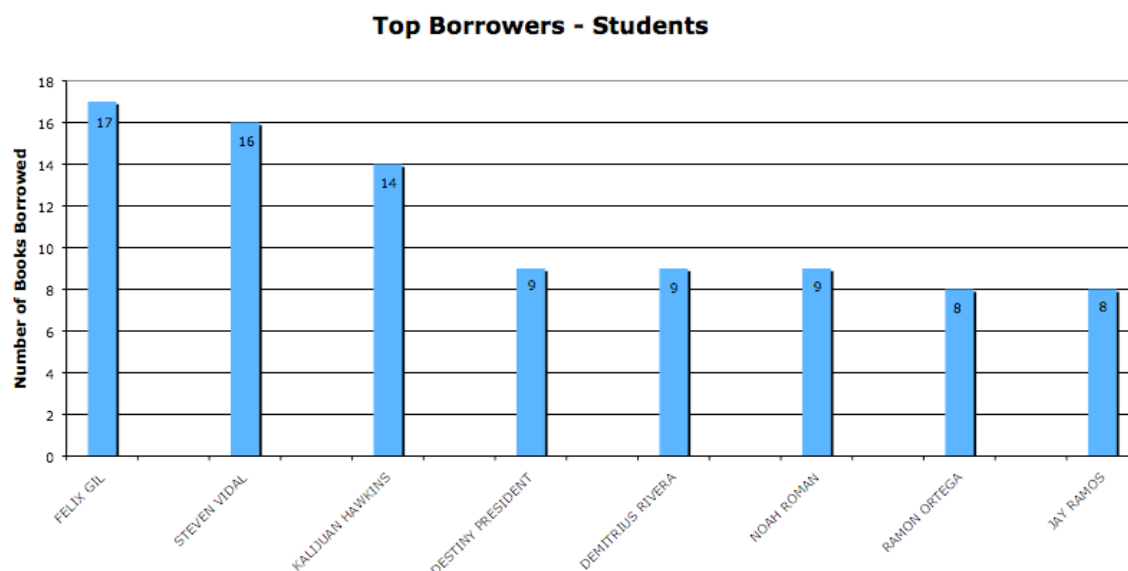


Figure 2. *Top Student Borrowers*

## About the Collection

We now offer students and faculty, 8,245 titles, an increase of 750 titles from the opening day collection that Robin Hood provided the library on December 3, 2008. And in addition to the NY State library funds allotted to our school, the library was able to purchase an additional \$13,591. worth of library books at the average cost of \$18.12 per book.

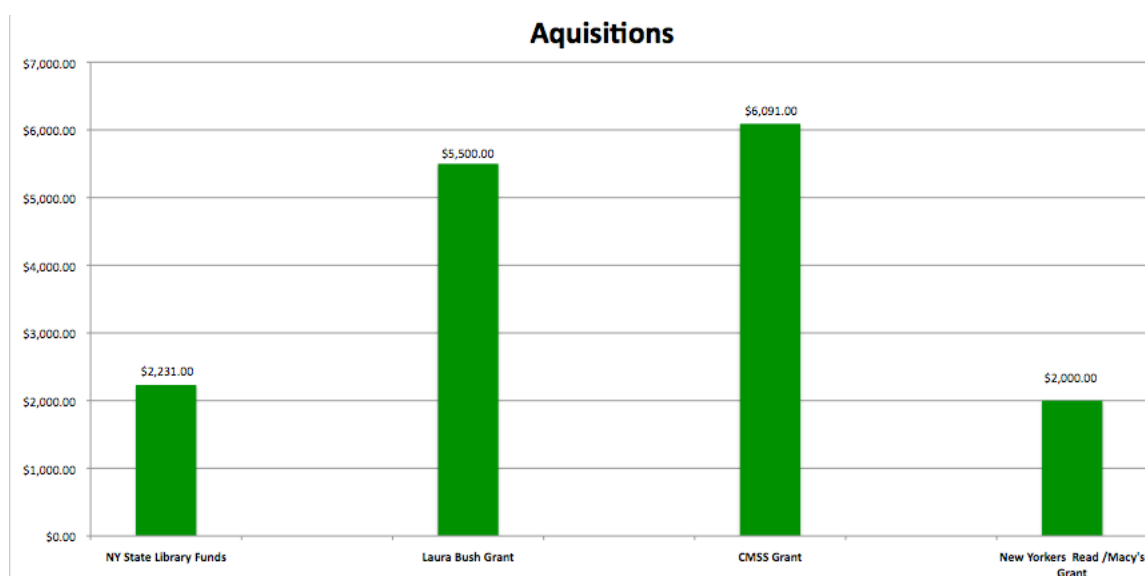


Figure 3. *Total amount of money spent on library books 08-09*

Circulation statistics ranged between 19 books per month in December when the books were first placed on the shelf, to 266 books per month borrowed in March, the month with the highest circulations.

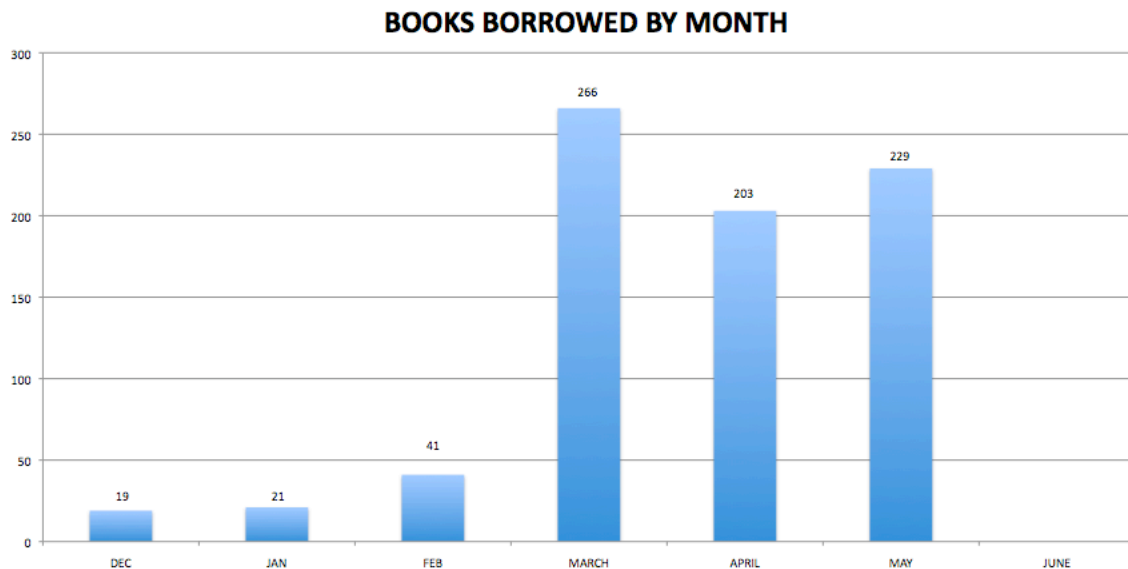


Figure 4. *Books borrowed by month*

Circulation statistics also show that most of our users borrowed non-fiction books, with Sport, Art, Music, Comics and Graphic Novels the most popular subjects amongst our students.

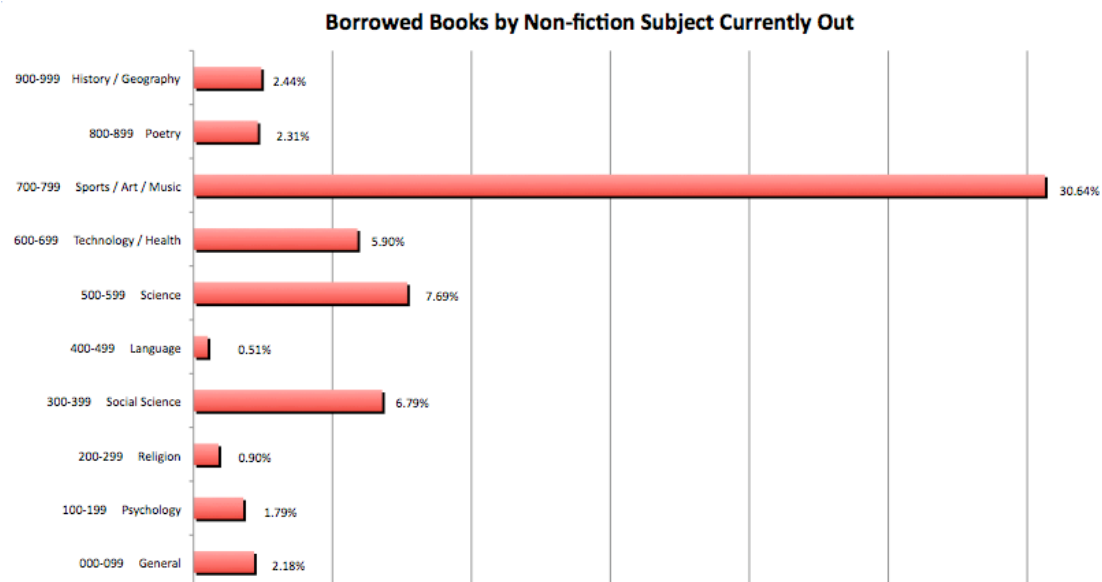


Figure 5. *Nonfiction books borrowed*

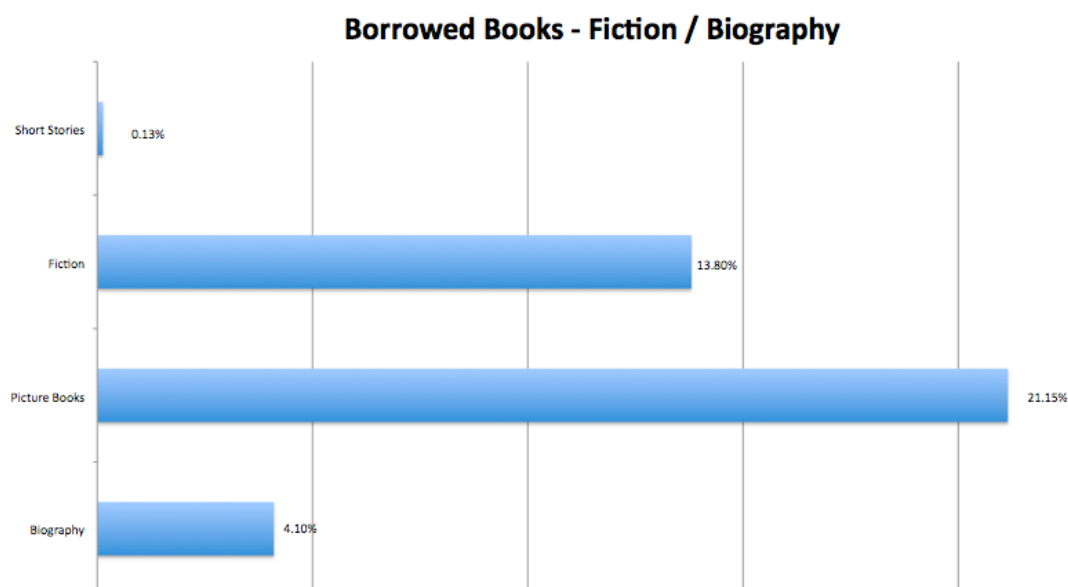
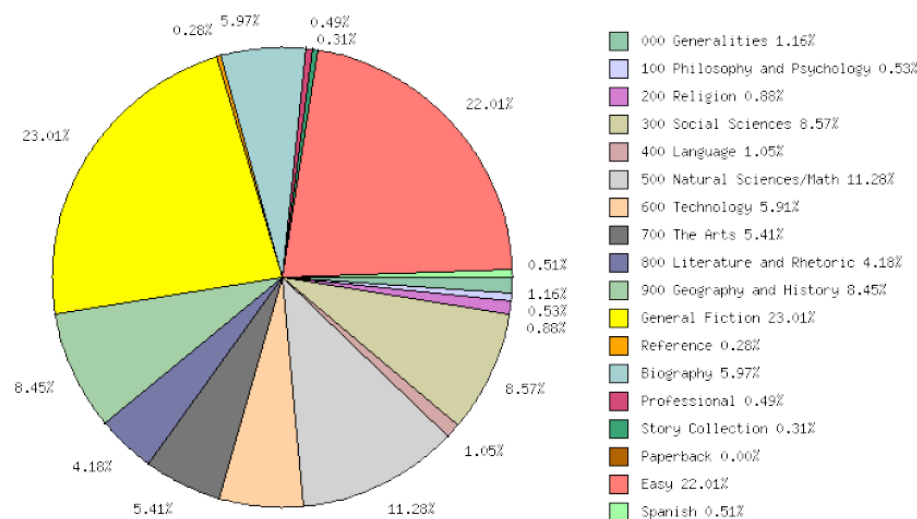


Figure 6. *Fiction and Picture Books borrowed*

Yet our library's fiction and picture book collection makes up 45.33% of the collection, an indication that our library's collection is unbalanced and does not reflect our students' reading tastes and interests. It is one of my goals to bring the collection and our readers' tastes in alignment with strategic purchasing practices next year and in the future. The pink and yellow areas in the pie chart below shows that the bulk of the collection is made up of fiction books and picture books, yet nonfiction is borrowed more heavily by the students who use our library.

## Collection Analysis (by 100s) - Main Classification Percentages



TitleWise Collection Analysis  
www.titlewise.com

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Figure 7. Percentage of different types of books

## Listening to Library Users

I learned much from listening to the students talk about the kinds of books they wanted to read and also from seeing which books they gravitated toward and borrowed. Although the opening day collection included 7,495 books, these were not necessarily the books that our students wanted to read. Among the most popular titles though were the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, the *Captain Underpants* series and the *Bone* series, all of which came with the opening day collection. These books were popular with both girls and boys with the exception of *Bone* which was only popular with the boys. With the budget for books provided by New York State, I made a point to purchase more copies of these popular titles. And indeed, statistics show that these titles were borrowed more than any other in the library.

I also had many conversations with Dyna Smith, AIS Coach, who gave me a list of titles that she wanted available in the collection as part of a reading list recommended by District 75. Much of this year's New York State budget for library books went to purchasing those

requested titles as one of the library's functions is to support the curriculum taught in the school it serves. In this case, Dyna was the perfect person to instruct and inform me about the curriculum taught at P186X. Ongoing conversations with her are a necessary and enjoyable part of my job.

Our students continue to express great joy and enthusiasm about the library and it is heartwarming to see such excitement over books. When the new books arrived from the CMSS grant, I created a place for them in their own special section and when I introduced them to the students they went wild with excitement! It is one of the librarian's responsibilities, and always a goal, to make use of funds wisely and to purchase precisely the books that library patrons want to borrow. A library may contain many books, but if they just sit on the shelves not being read, they make for a useless collection. This is why a library is not just a "room full of books," but rather a collection of carefully selected titles.

## **Library Advisory Team**

The Library Advisory Team met 5 times this year and will meet one last time in June. The team included:

Ava C. Kaplan, Principal  
Vito Faccilonga, Assistant Principal  
Patricia Sarles, Librarian  
Dorrett Tomlinson, Coordinator  
Evan Page, Coordinator  
Jermaine Jackson, Coordinator  
Troy Gorodess, Data Specialist  
Dyna Smith, AIS Coach  
Ashley Hodge, Elementary Teacher  
Charlotte Bloomberg, Robin Hood Technical Assistant

## **Professional Accomplishments**

In the last 13 months I have had two articles published online. One for AASL, the *American Association of School Librarians* which is about the use of Documentary Photography books in the high school library, available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/knowledgequest/kqwebarchives/v36/363/363sarles.cfm> and the other for the *American Fertility Association* about young adult books for donor

offspring, available here:

[http://www.theafa.org/library/article/librarians\\_at\\_a\\_loss\\_for\\_helping\\_donor\\_offspring/](http://www.theafa.org/library/article/librarians_at_a_loss_for_helping_donor_offspring/)

I have also had two articles accepted for publication. One in ***Children and Libraries: the Journal of the Association for Library Services to Children***, and the other in ***VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates***, both of which will be published late this year and next year.

In addition, I have written two grants for the library. The first award was in the amount of \$2,000. from the *New Yorkers Read* grant funded by Macy's Department stores and distributed by the Office of School Library Services at Tweed, and the second was from the *Laura Bush Foundation* for collection development in the amount of \$5,500. I was also involved in the writing of the *Campaign for Middle School Success Planning Grant* for which we won \$6,091. for a special collection of self-help books for our middle school students.

I created several special collections for the library including a *Self-Help* collection for the middle school, the beginning of a *Documentary Photography* collection, a *Character Education* collection for all grades and a *Graphic Novel* collection, also for all grades. I also created pathfinders for these collections which can be found online:

**Character Education:**

<http://charactereducationbooks.wikispaces.com/>

**Self-Help Collection:**

<http://selfhelpfortweens.wikispaces.com/>

**Graphic Novel Collection:**

<http://graphicnovelsforkidsandtweens.wikispaces.com/>

**Documentary Photography Books:**

<http://documentaryphotographybooks.blogspot.com/>

In addition to these wikis and blogs, I also created a blog for the library at: <http://damroschlibrary.blogspot.com/>

as well as a library wiki in which I am able to post my schedule online as well as all of my lesson plans: <http://wjdlibrary.wikispaces.com/>



## Goals for 2009-2010

- My goals are to continue to learn the names of each and every child in the school since every student is my library patron, as well as to learn and cater to the reading interests of every child.
- I would like to continue to get to know my colleagues so that I may start to have conversations with them about their information needs for the work they do in the school.
- I plan to continue to hone my skills as a librarian to a K-8 population, as well as to a population of multiply handicapped and emotionally disturbed students, a population and an age group that I was new to this year.
- I would like to continue to work on the school's Grant-writing Team and Inquiry Team as I found both to be intellectually stimulating and a stimulating way to discuss education issues with my colleagues.
- I would like to use the Inquiry Team next year to study the correlation between library users and reading scores. Do the students who use the library and read the most books also have higher reading scores?
- I would like to start receiving subscriptions to magazines that our students would be interested in reading. Magazine subscriptions however are a little pricey and I cannot afford to take money away from books to purchase magazines.
- I would like to identify and purchase more titles like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Captain Underpants*, and *Bone*, so that I may help to expand the reading horizons of our students.
- I would like to organize the fiction section by genre, i.e. create a separate science fiction section, adventure section, mystery section, horror section, sports and animal stories section, etc. in order to see if there is an increase in circulation in these areas
- I would like to implement an interlibrary loan system between 186 and 306 so that the faculty at 306 have access to our library's holdings

- I would like to lobby the principal for more money to purchase library books in addition to the meager allotment provided by NY state for library books.
- I plan to continue to write grants for the P186X library and in particular, to receive the NY State CCD grant, a grant I wrote this year but did not get even though I received positive feedback by the reviewer on my application. The reason given for my not getting it was that I had only been in my school for 6 weeks at the time and how could I possibly know the needs of my students with so little time in the building. I will certainly try again next year since my grant application was otherwise well-received.
- I plan to continue to publish in my field and hope to get at least one article accepted for publication next year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia Sarles*

## **Acknowledgements**

I wish to thank the principal, Ava C. Kaplan, for hiring me and for ongoing support of both me and the library program, as well as my continuing development as a professional librarian at P186X. I wish to thank Vito Faccilonga, Assistant Principal, also for hiring me and for all his help with making purchases this, my first year at P186X, a smooth endeavor. I also wish to thank Troy Gorodess for friendship and collegiality as well as for his help with the charts and graphs for this report, and also for the slideshow he created on the day of the Ribbon-Cutting. I wish to thank Dyna Smith for friendship and collegiality but also for professional assistance and advice with library classes, as well as for all the hard work she put into working with the classes who presented in the auditorium on the day of the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. I wish to thank Charlotte Bloomberg, Robin Hood Technical Assistant, for regular visits to our school library and ongoing professional advice and support. I also wish to thank the three Floor Coordinators, Dorrett Tomlinson, Evan Page and Jermaine Jackson for the excellent and important work that they do for the school, as well as my Library Advisory Team. And finally I wish to thank several of the really excellent teachers in this school who helped keep their students on task in the library, collaborated with me on creating meaningful library projects and also in helping me get their students' books returned to the library including, Ashley Hodge, an extraordinary

teacher and person, who was also a Library Advisory Team member, Camelia Lugo, Michelle Browne, Jamie Hoel, Elsa Colon, Christine Valentic, Alnisa Washington, Dawn Gallagher, Gretel Ellison, Cesar Nina, Brenda Robinson, Sharon Batson, Dawn Crawford, Martha Barbosa, Melissa Goudoras, Krystal Gutekunst, Ariella Perlman, Donise Lyons, Kristina Witkowski, Darryl McKnight, Irina Murrain, Betty Walrond and Steve Jaffe.